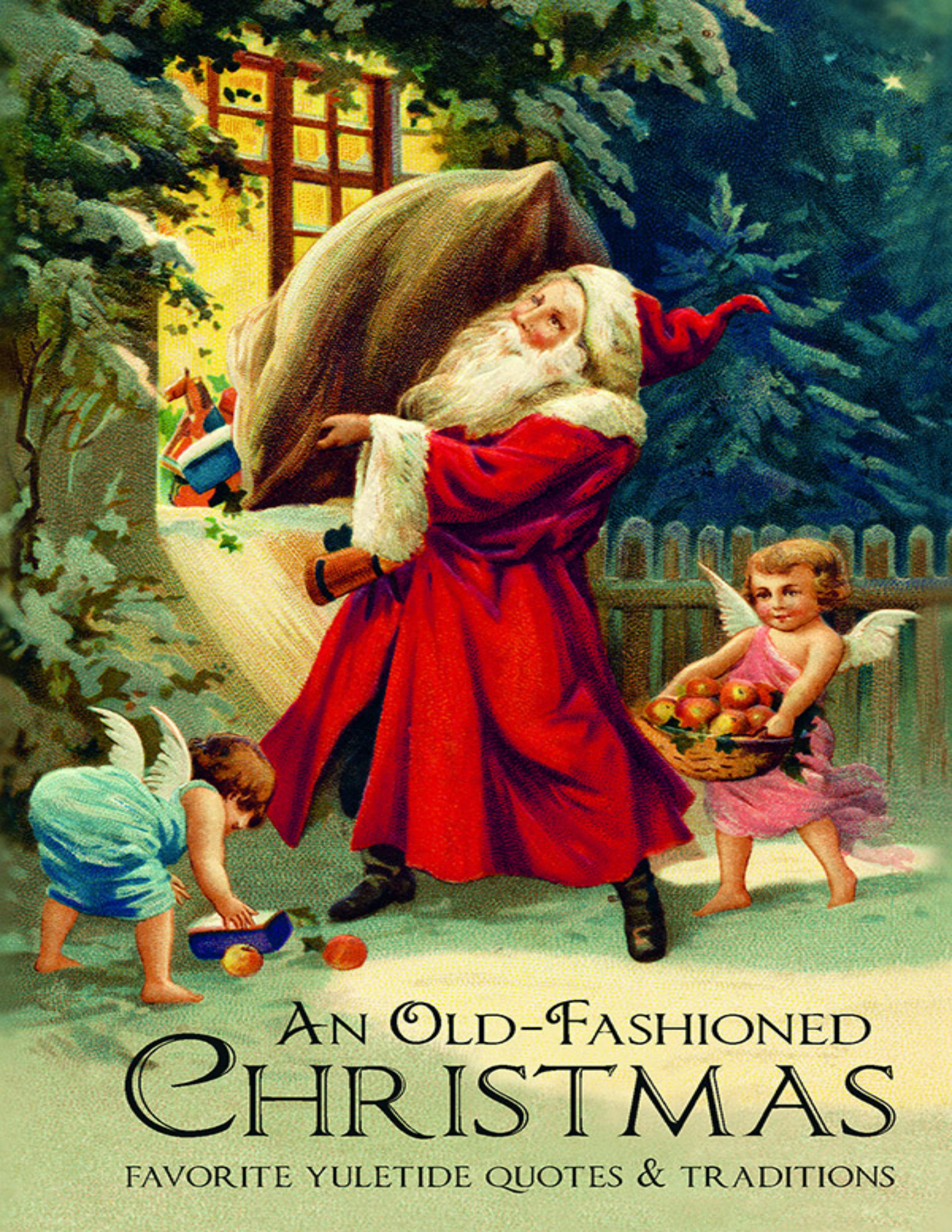

# An Old-Fashioned Christmas

## Favorite Yuletide Quotes & Traditions

An Old-Fashioned
Christmas
Arranged by Jackie Corley

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# AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.
ISBN: 978-1-57826-777-4

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DESIGN BY CAROLYN KASPER

Printed in the United States
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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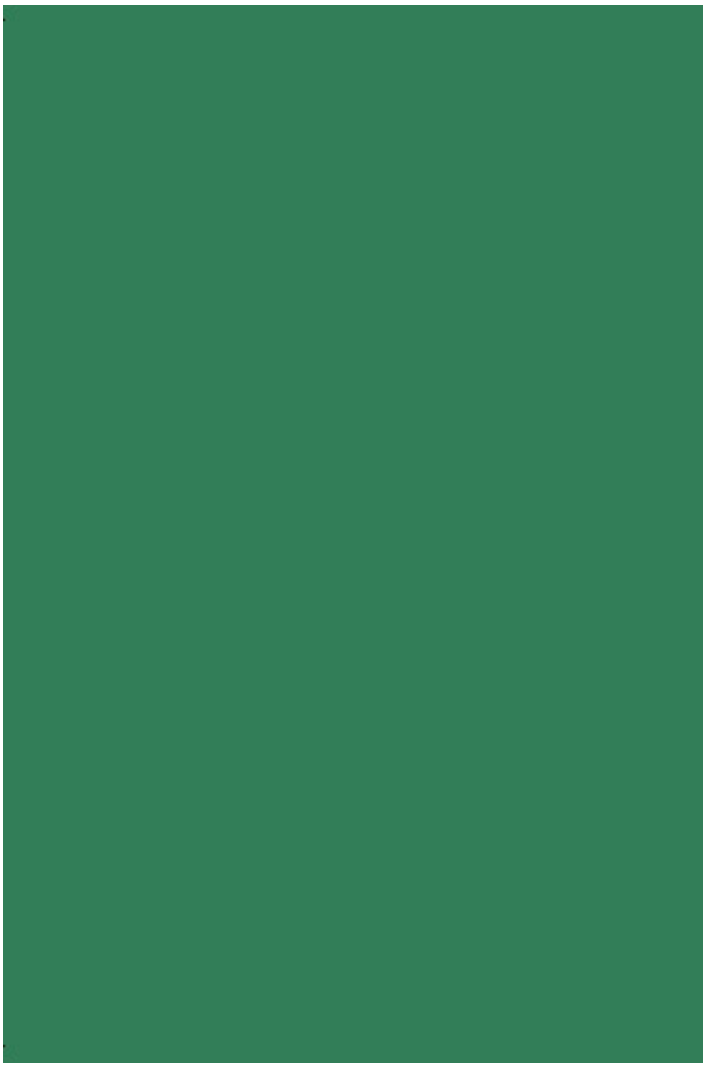


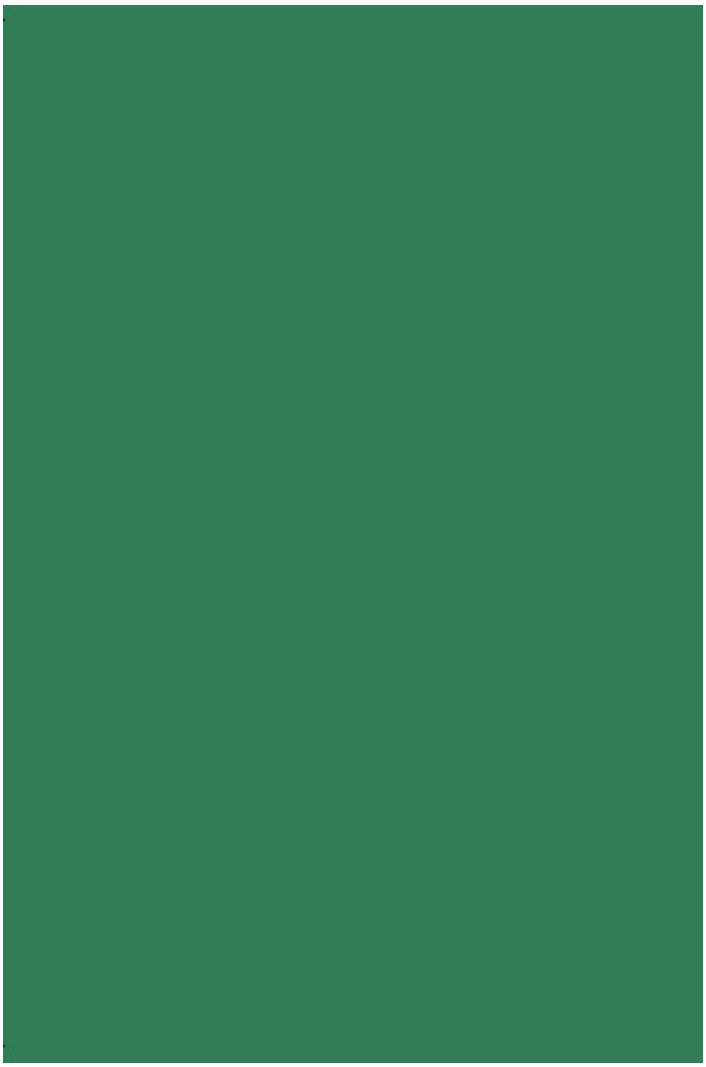
# INTRODUCTION

CHRISTMAS IS SUCH A magical time of year. We take pause to reflect on our lives and determine to show our loved ones how much they mean to us. We gather with family and friends to exchange gifts and make merry, and the joy and fulfillment found in those moments in turn create lasting memories.

This book collects quotes from authors, ministers, world leaders, philosophers and comedians, each pondering the meaning of Christmas.

As you count down the days to Christmas every year, let this book help usher you into the season. If you know someone in need of Christmas cheer, the wisdom and kindness contained in these quotes can prove a soothing balm. And if you need a boost of goodwill and merriment—no matter the time of year—these glimmers of Christmas spirit will certainly do the trick!

The Spirit
of
Christmas



I WILL HONOR Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

—Charles Dickens

REMEMBER, IF Christmas isn’t found in your heart, you won’t find it under a tree.

—CHARLOTTE CARPENTER

FOR CENTURIES men have kept an appointment with Christmas. Christmas means fellowship, feasting, giving and receiving, a time of good cheer, home.

—WILLIAM JEWETT TUCKER

CHRISTMAS GIFT suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.

—OREN ARNOLD

CHRISTMAS IS the gentlest, loveliest festival of the revolving year—and yet, for all that, when it speaks, its voice has strong authority.

—W.J. CAMERON

I TRULY BELIEVE that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas

spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.

—Norman Vincent Peale

EACE ON earth and mercy mild are still possible. On Christmas Eve, all things are possible.

—Gregg Easterbrook

HRISTMAS IS a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

—Winston Churchill

HE WAY you spend Christmas is far more important than how much.

—Henry David Thoreau

HE THING about Christmas is that it almost doesn’t matter what mood you’re in or what kind of a year you’ve had; it’s a fresh start.

—Kelly Clarkson

I HEARD THE bells on Christmas Day. Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good-will to men!

—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

CHRISTMAS IS not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

—CALVIN COOLIDGE

STARS OF heaven, clear and bright, shine upon this Christmas light, vaster far than midnight skies are its timeless mysteries.

—TIMOTHY DUDLEY-SMITH

FRESHLY CUT Christmas trees smelling of stars and snow and pine resin—inhale deeply and fill your soul with wintry night.

—JOHN J. GEDDES

THE GREAT majority of people will go on observing forms that cannot be explained; they will keep Christmas Day with Christmas gifts and Christmas benedictions; they will

continue to do it; and some day suddenly wake up and discover why.

—G.K. Chesterton

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?

—Bob Hope

Christmas is here, merry old Christmas, gift-bearing Christmas, day of grand memories, king of the year!

—Washington Irving

Now, the essence, the very spirit of Christmas is that we first make believe a thing is so, and lo, it presently turns out to be so.

—Stephen Leacock

Don't let the past steal your present. This is the message of Christmas: We are never alone.

—Taylor Caldwell

HAVE YOU any old grudges you would like to pay, any wrongs laid up from a bygone day? -Gather them now and lay them away when Christmas comes. Hard thoughts are heavy to carry, my friend, and life is short from beginning to end; be kind to yourself, leave nothing to mend when Christmas comes.

—William Haines Lytle

CHRISTMAS IS not in tinsel and lights and outward show. The secret lies in an inner glow. It's lighting a fire inside the heart. Good will and joy a vital part. It's higher thought and a greater plan. It's glorious dream in the soul of man.

—Wilferd Peterson

THERE IS no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions.

—Bill Mckibben

CHRISTMAS IS not just a day, an event to be observed and speedily forgotten. It is a spirit which should permeate every part of our lives.

—William Parks

PEACE ON earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.

—HELEN STEINER RICE

CHRISTMAS WAVES a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

—NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

THE SPIRIT of Christmas is—and hopefully always will be—about good will and generosity to others, and peace on earth.

—NICK RAHALL

CHRISTMAS IS not a date. It is a state of mind.

—MARY ELLEN CHASE

CHRISTMAS IS the day that holds all time together.

—ALEXANDER SMITH

I SOMETIMES THINK we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindliness and

humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year.

—Ray Stannard Baker

Set no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no persuasion move thee, to do anything which thou knowest to be evil; so shalt thou always live jollity; for a good conscience is a continual Christmas.

—Benjamin Franklin

At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

—Thomas Tusser

Christmas! the very word brings joy to our hearts.

—Joan Winmill Brown

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

—Hamilton Wright Mabie

Isn't it funny that at Christmas something in you gets so lonely for—I don't know what exactly, but it's something that you don't mind so much not having at other times.

—Kate Langley Bosher

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love.

—Ada V. Hendricks

The Christmas spirit—love—changes hearts and lives.

—Pat Boone

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.

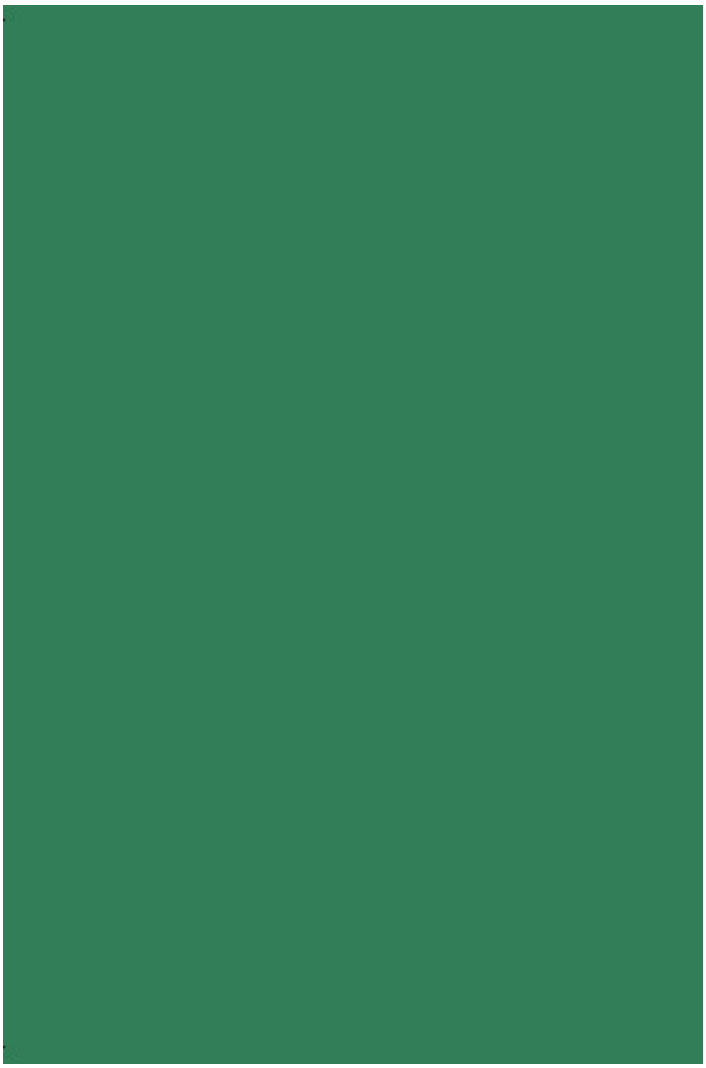
—William Thomas Ellis

Christmas and the holidays are the season of giving. It's a time when people are more kind and open-hearted.

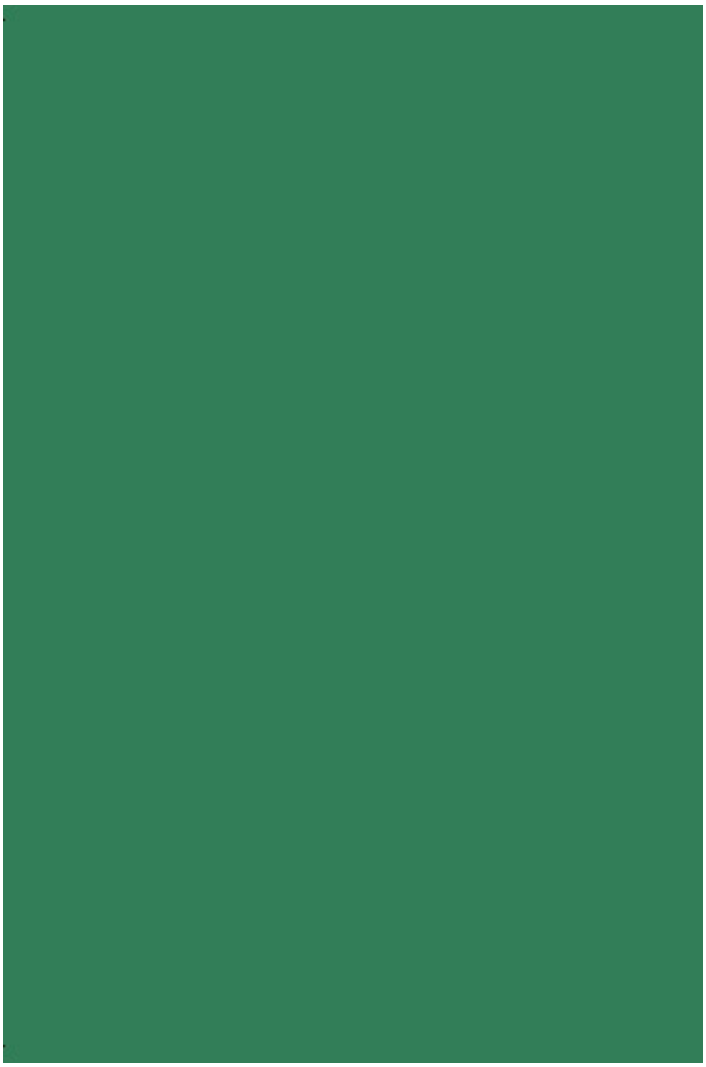
—Gisele Bundchen

CHRISTMAS IS a kindling of new fires.

—GLADYS TABER



Selflessness



UNLESS WE make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it "white."

—BING CROSBY

THE JOY that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

—JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

CHRISTMAS IS more than a time of music, merriment and mirth; it is a season of meditation, mangers and miracles. Christmas is more than a time of carols, cards and candy; it is a season of dedication and decision.

—WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

THE GREATEST thing is not to believe in Santa Claus; it is to *be* Santa Claus.

—PAT BOONE

CHRISTMAS IS the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

—WASHINGTON IRVING

CHRISTMAS DAY is a day of joy and charity. May God make you very rich in both.

—PHILLIPS BROOKS

I LOVE THE Christmas-tide, and yet, I notice this, each year I live; I always like the gifts I get, but how I love the gifts I give!

—Carolyn Wells

CHRISTMAS MEANS "giving," and the gift without the giver is bare. Give of yourselves; give of your substance; give of your heart and mind.

—Gordon B Hinckley

THE MANNER of giving is worth more than the gift.

—Pierre Corneille

CHRISTMAS IS most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.

—Ruth Carter Stapleton

CHRISTMAS HAS a way of bringing out the best in everyone.

—Bing Crosby

THE EXCELLENCE of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value.

—Charles Dudley Warner

Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it’s Christmas.

—Dale Evans

I love everything about the holidays: the decorations, the parties, and spending time with friends and family. What I love most is that feeling of giving back. Every bit counts.

—Brad Goreski

To celebrate the heart of Christmas is to forget ourselves in the service of others.

—Henry C. Link

The Christmas spirit is the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor—spending and being spent—to enrich their fellow humans, giving time, trouble, care and concern, to do good to others—and not just their own friends—in whatever way there seems need.

—J.I. Packer

PRESENTS ARE made for the pleasure of who gives them, not the merits of who receives them.

—CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON

CHRISTMAS IS doing a little something extra for someone.

—CHARLES M. SCHULZ

EVERY GIFT which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection.

—PINDAR

THE JOY of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas.

—WILLIAM CAREY JONES

CHRISTMAS IS a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves.

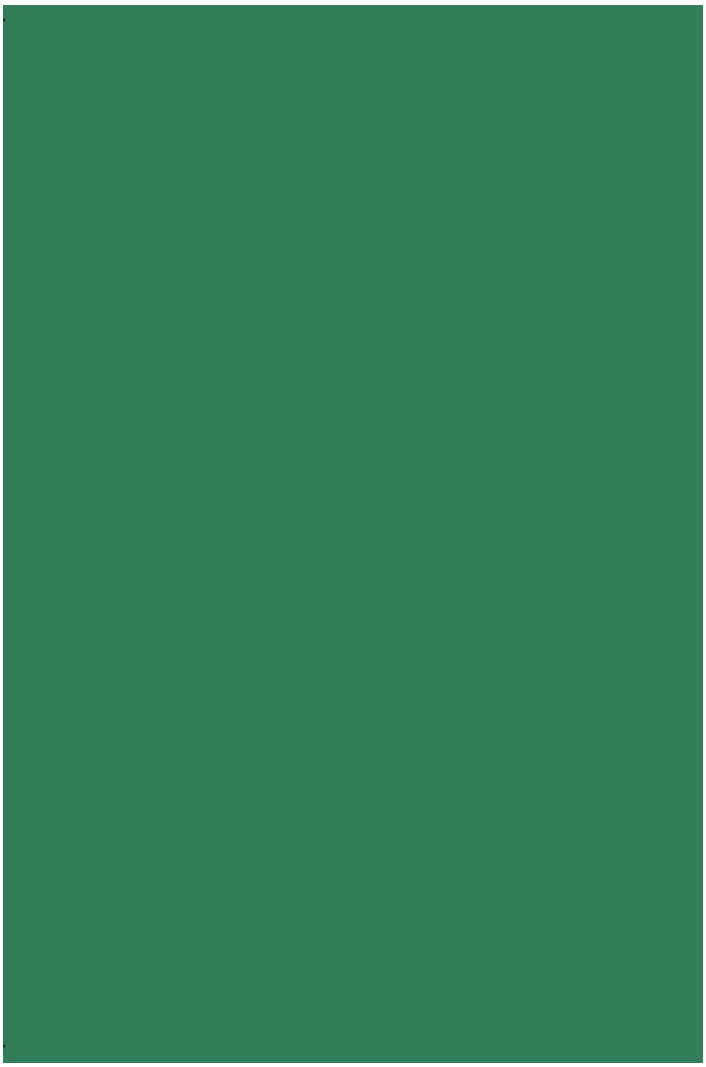
—ERIC SEVAREID

A HOLIDAY GIVES one a chance to look backward and forward; to reset oneself by an inner compass.

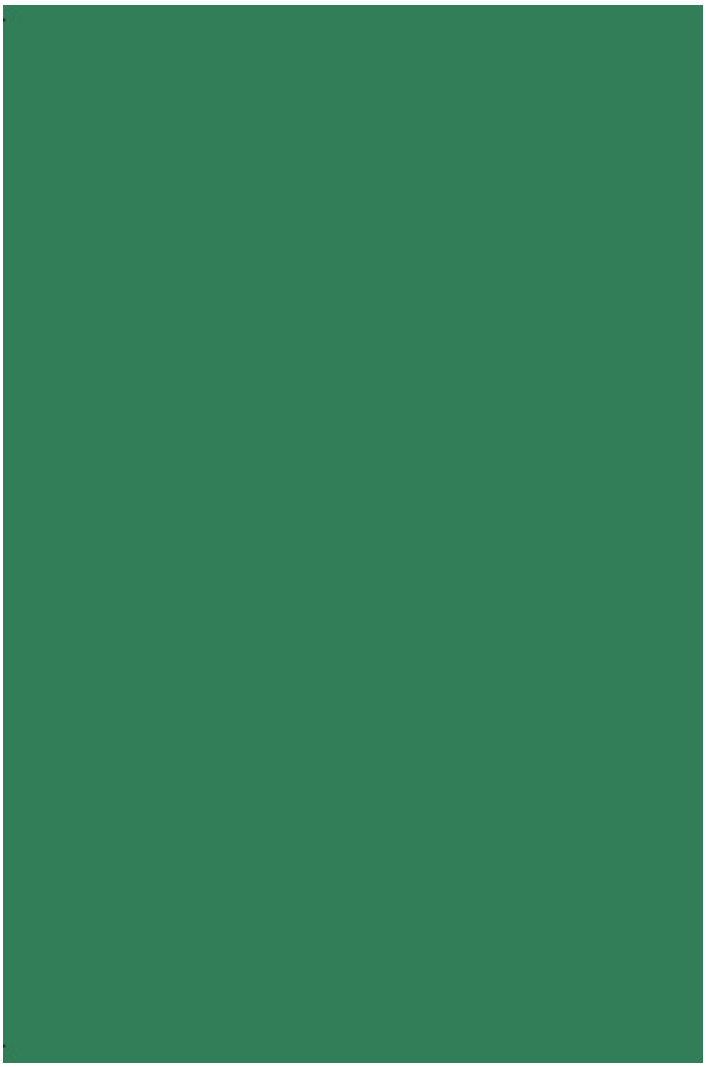
—MAY SARTON

LET US remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first.

—GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS



Humor



CHRISTMAS IS a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered.

—PHYLLIS DILLER

CHRISTMAS CARDS are technically only junk mail from people you know.

—PATRICIA MARX

ONCE AGAIN, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice.

—DAVE BARRY

THERE IS a remarkable breakdown of taste and intelligence at Christmas time. Mature, responsible grown men wear neckties made of holly leaves and drink alcoholic beverages with raw egg yolks and cottage cheese in them.

—P. J. O'ROURKE

DO YOU want to feel insecure? Count the number of Christmas cards you sent out, and then count those you received.

—MILTON BERLE

DID YOU ever notice that life seems to follow certain patterns? Like I noticed that every year around this time, I hear Christmas music.

—Tom Sims

Christmas sweaters are only acceptable as a cry for help.

—Andy Borowitz

There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.

—Bob Phillips

Christmas tree stands are the work of the devil and they want you dead.

—Bill Bryson

The worst gift is a fruitcake. There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other.

—Johnny Carson

A cynic is just a man who found out when he was ten that there wasn’t any Santa Claus, and he’s still upset.

—James Gould Cozzens

SANTA CLAUS has the right idea—visit people only once a year.

—VICTOR BORGE

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all. A Pagan holiday (BC) becomes a Religious holiday (AD). Which then becomes a Shopping holiday (USA).

—NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

LIKE EVERYONE in his right mind, I feared Santa Claus.

—ANNIE DILLARD

CHRISTMAS AT my house is always at least six or seven times more pleasant than anywhere else. We start drinking early. And while everyone else is seeing only one Santa Claus, we'll be seeing six or seven.

—W.C. FIELDS

ONE OF the things I had a hard time getting used to when I came to California in '78 was Santa Claus in shorts.

—DENNIS FRANZ

NOTHING'S AS mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas.

—KIN HUBBARD

THIS PAST Christmas, I told my girlfriend for months in advance that all I wanted was an Xbox. That's it. Beginning and end of list, Xbox. You know what she got me? A homemade frame with a picture of us from our first date together. Which was fine. Because I got her an Xbox.

—ANTHONY JESELNIK

A LOVELY THING about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.

—GARRISON KEILLOR

LAST CHRISTMAS, I got the worst gift a guy ever gave me. He gave me a lottery ticket…what's the guy even thinking there. Here you go…nothing! Merry Christmas! It's nothing!

—NORM MACDONALD

THAT'S THE true spirit of Christmas; people being helped by people other than me.

—Jerry Seinfeld

The principal advantage of the non-parental lifestyle is that on Christmas Eve you need not be struck dumb by the three most terrifying words that the government allows to be printed on any product: “Some assembly required.”

—John Leo

I throw a Christmas party at my house. It’s not really a Christmas party, because I don’t want to call it a Christmas party. But let’s just say I put a lot of Christmas trees around the house, so it smells good.

—Bill Murray

Christmas begins about the first of December with an office party and ends when you finally realize what you spent, around April fifteenth of the next year.

—P.J. O’Rourke

I love the excess of Christmas. The shopping season that begins in September, the bad pop star recordings of Christmas carols, the decorations that don’t know when to come down.

—MO ROCCA

ONE OF the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly.

—ANDY ROONEY

I WRAPPED MY Christmas presents early this year, but I used the wrong paper. See, the paper I used said "Happy Birthday" on it. I didn't want to waste it so I just wrote "Jesus" on it.

—DEMETRI MARTIN

I LOVE CHRISTMAS. I receive a lot of wonderful presents I can't wait to exchange.

—HENNY YOUNGMAN

IT'S ALWAYS consoling to know that today's Christmas gifts are tomorrow's garage sales.

—MILTON BERLE

NEXT TO a circus there ain't nothing that packs up and tears out any quicker than the Christmas spirit.

—Kin Hubbard

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled ‘till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.

—Dr. Seuss

From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it.

—Katharine Whitehorn

A merry Christmas to all my friends except two.

—W.C. Fields

The best Christmas present I got from my husband was a week to do whatever I wanted.

—Olivia Williams

CHRISTMAS IS the time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it.

—RICHARD LAMM

I ONCE BOUGHT my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, “Toys not included.”

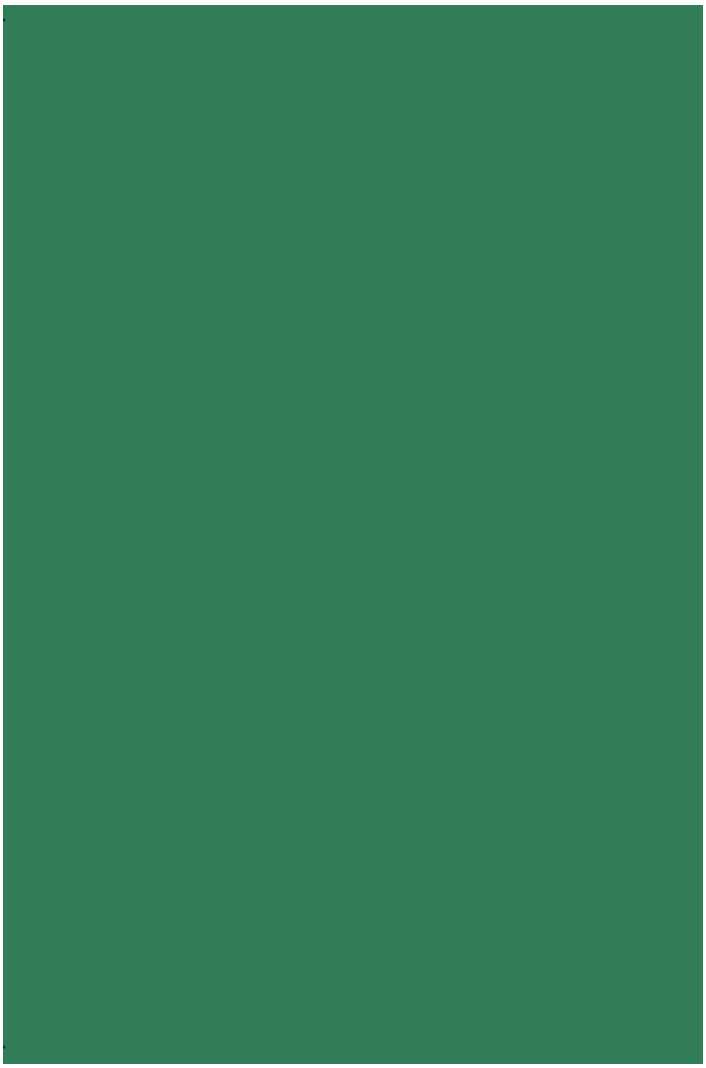
—BERNARD MANNING

ONCE YOU stop believing in Santa Claus, the whole world just goes downhill.

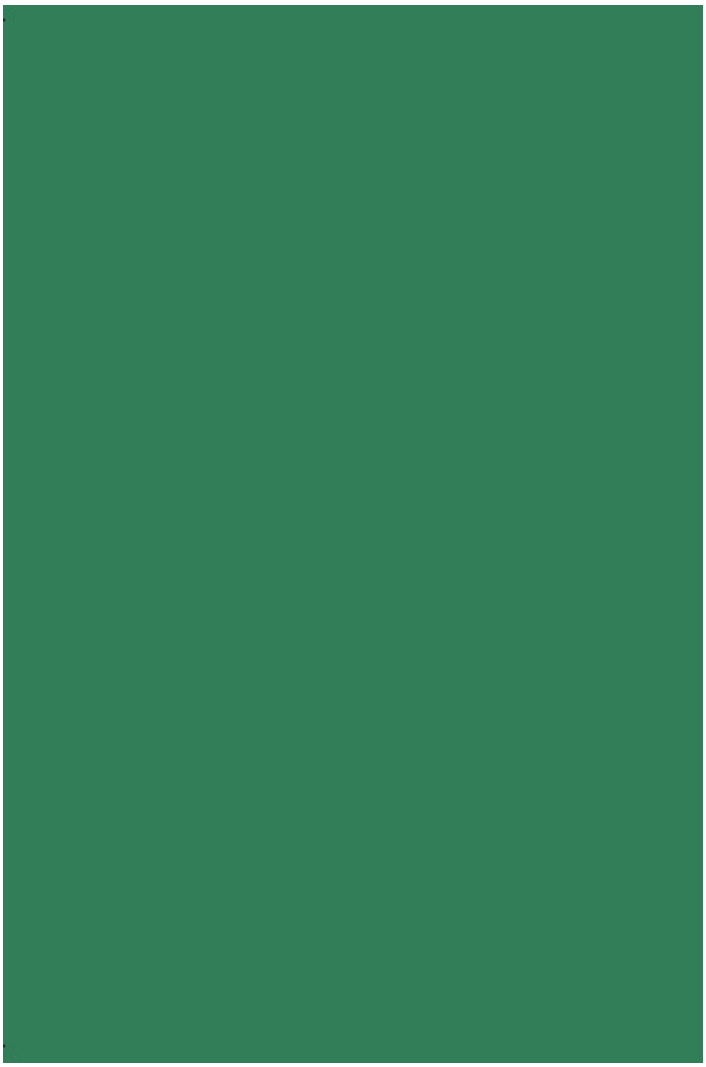
—TOM CLANCY

I HAVEN’T TAKEN my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin.

—WINSTON SPEAR



Family
And
Friends



THE BEST Christmas gift of all is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up with one another. Jesus is the reason for the season! From a little spark may burst a mighty flame. The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart.

—Helen Keller

It's true; Christmas can feel like a lot of work, particularly for mothers. But when you look back on all the Christmases in your life, you'll find you've created family traditions and lasting memories. Those memories, good and bad, are really what help to keep a family together over the long haul.

—Caroline Kennedy

Christmas is more than a time of festivities, family, and friends; it is a season of generosity, gladness, and gratitude.

—William Arthur Ward

Christmas is not an external event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart.

—Freya Stark

A little smile, a word of cheer, a bit of love from someone near, a little gift from one held dear, best wishes for the coming year. These make a Merry Christmas!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

FOR ME, the spirit of Christmas means being happy and giving freely. It's a tradition for all the kids in the family to help mom decorate the tree. Christmas is all about family, eating, drinking and making merry.

—MALAIKA ARORA KHAN

MY CHRISTMAS wish would be to have an entire week off. To spend it with my family and just curl up and watch Christmas movies when it's snowing outside.

—DAVID HASSELHOFF

CALL A truce, then, to our labors—let us feast with friends and neighbors, and be merry as the custom of our caste; for if 'faint and forced the laughter,' and if sadness follow after, we are richer by one mocking Christmas past.

—RUDYARD KIPLING

OPENED CHRISTMAS cards hum to me the hymn of love and teach me the sacrament of correspondence.

—EDWARD M HAYS

YOUR CHILDREN need your presence more than your presents.

—Jesse Jackson

During the holiday season, Christmas specifically, it can be hard to be away from family and friends.

—Monica Johnson

I love presents, but since I've gotten older, I haven't really wanted anything. Christmas is about family.

—Jacob Latimore

Christmas is, of course, the time to be home—in heart as well as body.

—Garry Moore

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.

—Peg Bracken

Memories and magic are what Christmas is all about.

—Lynn Johnston

FOR ME, Christmas is about family, loving, forgiveness, compassion, understanding and camaraderie.

—Anthony Mackie

I LOVE Christmas. A time to slow down and enjoy life and be with my family and friends. In busy years, it keeps me sane. In bad years, it makes me feel whole again.

—Mary Jo Putney

I THINK ONE of the finest gifts I can give my friends in the holiday season is to pause with a long enough quality to actually see them. My calm, unhurried presence communicates this gift of a message, “I see you. I recognize you. I remember our times of together and am contributing right now to another quality memory. I value you and honor and take the time, right this moment to pause long enough to truly notice you.”

—Mary Anne Radmacher

CHRISTMAS IS a bridge. We need bridges as the river of time flows past. Today’s Christmas should mean creating happy hours for tomorrow and reliving those of yesterday.

—Gladys Taber

As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.

—Donald E Westlake

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

—Bill Vaughan

My brothers and sisters, may the spirit of love which comes at Christmas time fill our homes and our lives and linger there long after the tree is down and the lights are put away for another year.

—Thomas S Monson

Love the giver more than the gift.

—Brigham Young

There are no strangers on Christmas Eve.

—Adele Comandini

FRIENDSHIP IS a precious gift to give at Christmas time. a Cherished gift, a treasured gift that lasts through all time.

—ANONYMOUS

CHRISTMAS IS a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends.

—MARGARET THATCHER

TIME CANNOT be packaged and ribboned and left under trees for Christmas morning. Time can't be given. But it can be shared.

—CECELIA AHERN

SHARING THE holiday with other people, and feeling that you're giving of yourself, gets you past all the commercialism.

—CAROLINE KENNEDY

CHRISTMAS IS the season of joy, of holiday greetings exchanged, of gift-giving, and of families united.

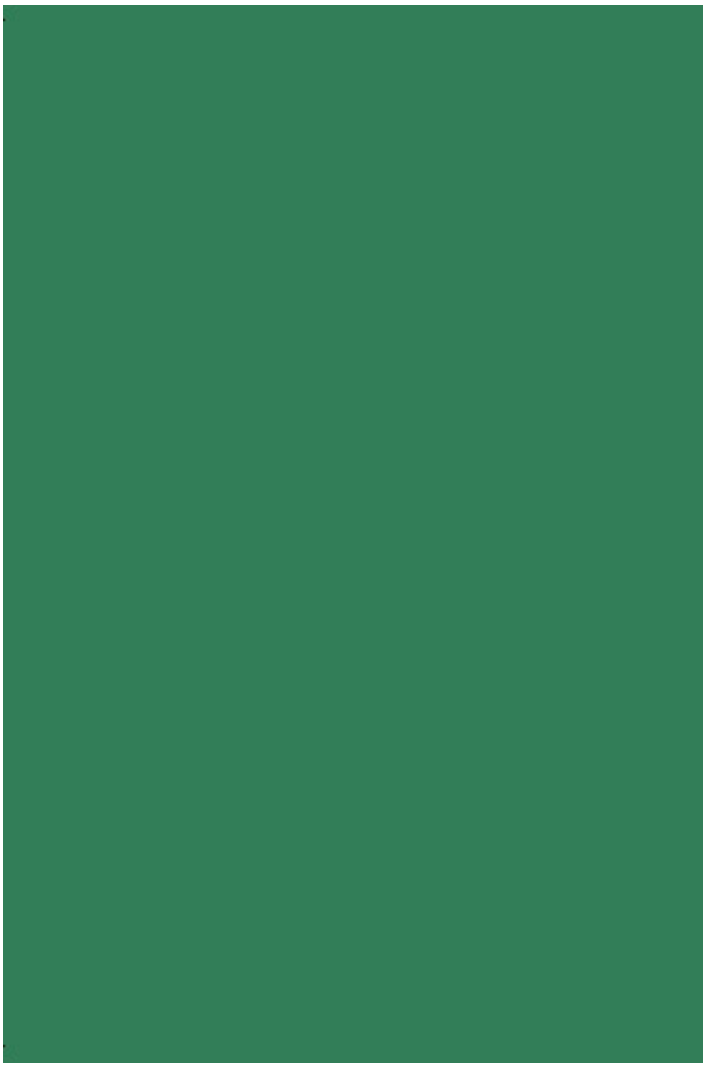
—NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

SO MANY people, holidays are not voyages of discovery, but a ritual of reassurance.

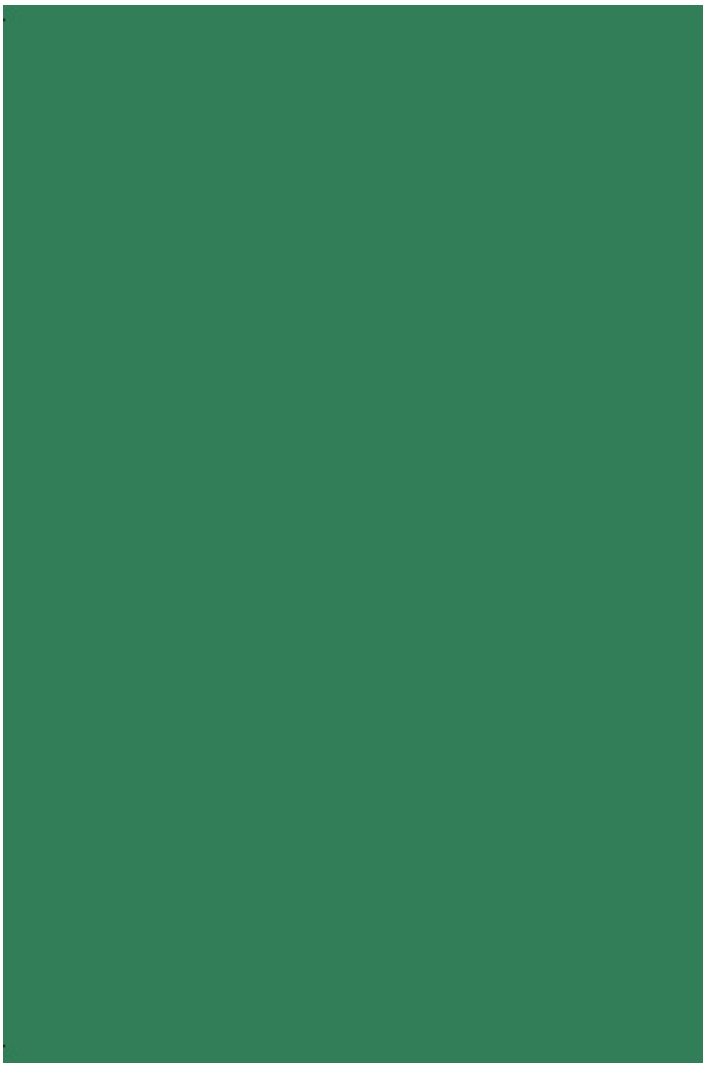
—PHILLIP ADAMS

REMEMBER THIS December, that love weighs more than gold!

—JOSEPHINE DODGE DASKAM BACON



Faith



IT IS Christmas every time you let God love others through you…yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

—MOTHER TERESA

I DON'T THINK Christmas is necessarily about things. It's about being good to one another, it's about the Christian ethic, it's about kindness.

—Carrie Fisher

I WISH THAT Christmas may be happy and heavenly, and the holidays glow with the gifts of the inner life that God will give to each one.

—Janet Erskine Stuart

BEST OF all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God.

—George McDougall

CHRIST WAS born in the first century, yet he belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries.

—George W. Truett

DURING THIS Christmas season, when the world seems to be in turmoil, wars are breaking out in different places, crime is rampant, and many things are happening that are great sins in the sight of God. But in that crib is the person who grew up to save us. And He did.

—BILLY GRAHAM

I AM NOT alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

—TAYLOR CALDWELL

CHRISTMAS IS joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.

—POPE FRANCIS

WHEN WE were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?

—G.K. CHESTERTON

I LOVE CHRISTMAS music and there's nothing like getting together with friends at Christmas time to celebrate with music the incredible reality of the Savior's birth.

—STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN

GOD IS here. This truth should fill our lives, and every Christmas should be for us a new and special meeting with God, when we allow his light and grace to enter deep into our soul.

—JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA

A SCIENTIST SAID, "The very best way to send an idea is to wrap it up in a person." That was what happened at Christmas. The idea of divine love was wrapped up in a Person.

—HALFORD LUCCOCK

MUCH OF the beauty of Christmas lies in its challenge to look further, deeper, until we find its secret in the heart of God. But we never find that unless we look beyond the presents under the tree.

—DALE EVANS

SOLIDAY AND Holy Day, Christmas is more than a yule log, holly or tree. It is more than natural good cheer and the giving of gifts. Christmas is even more than the feast of the home and of children, the feast of love and friendship. It is more than all of these together. Christmas is Christ, the Christ of justice and charity, of freedom and peace.

—FRANCIS SPELLMAN

YOU CAN give a great and wonderful Christmas if you remember the gifts God has given you and, as best you can, offer them to others as He would. That is the spirit of Christmas and of true happiness every day.

—HENRY B. EYRING

REJOICE THAT the immortal God is born, so that mortal man may live in eternity.

—JAN HUS

WERE IT not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of stargazers, there would have been no gifts.

—MAX LUCADO

GOOD NEWS from heaven the angels bring, glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a child is given, to crown us with the joy of heaven.

—Martin Luther

CHRISTMAS TIME, we can remember with deep thanksgiving the amazing Christmas gift of God Himself, when God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

—Henry M. Morris

JESUS LIVED a life of peace, love, kindness and forgiveness, during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, may we all do our best to follow his example.

—Barack Obama

YOU CAN never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift.

—John R. Rice

NO MATTER what other personal desires or crises we have faced, I've never forgotten that this is the time to

celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus, and the impact of this event on the history of the world.

—Jimmy Carter

Christmas is a season which almost all Christians observe in one way or another. Some keep it as a religious season. Some keep it as a holiday. But all over the world, wherever there are Christians, in one way or another Christmas is kept.

—J.C. Ryle

Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.

—Helen Steiner Rice

The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.

—Billy Graham

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

AND WHEN we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.

—SIGRID UNDSET

I DON'T WANT a Christmas you can buy. I don't want a Christmas you can make. What I want is a Christmas you can hold. A Christmas that holds me, remakes me, revives me. I want a Christmas that whispers, Jesus.

—ANN VOSKAMP

O CHRISTMAS SUN! What holy task is thine! To fold a world in the embrace of God!

—GUY WETMORE CARRYL

FAITH IS salted and peppered through everything at Christmas. And I love at least one night by the Christmas tree to sing and feel the quiet holiness of that time that's set

apart to celebrate love, friendship, and God's gift of the Christ child.

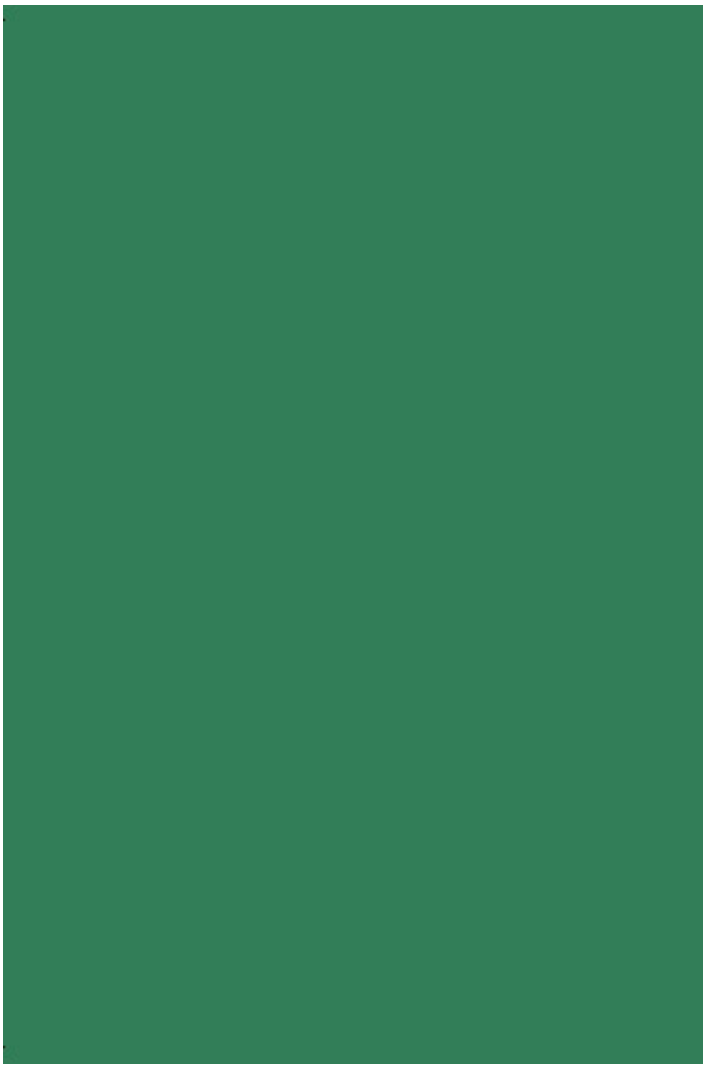
—Amy Grant

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

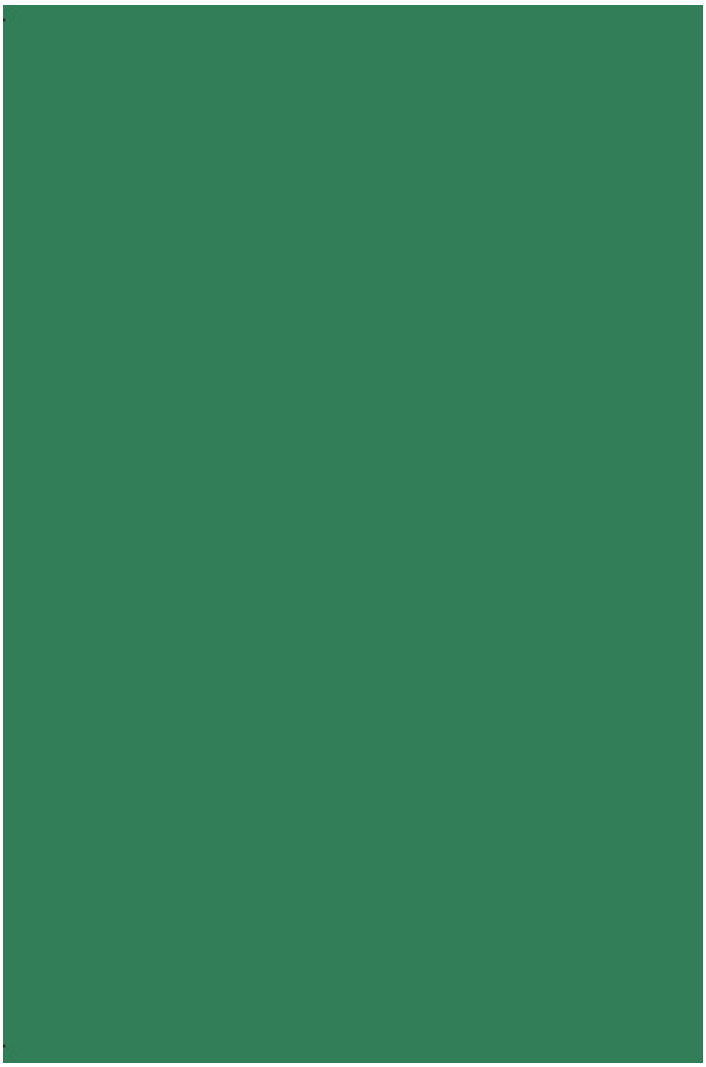
—Corrie Ten Boom

All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.

—David Jeremiah



Through
the Eyes
of a
Child



YES, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no

Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

—Francis Pharcellus Churchill

For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.

—Charles Dickens

Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.

—Laura Ingalls Wilder

Christmas is best pondered, not with logic, but with imagination.

—Max Lucado

Selfishness makes Christmas a burden; love makes it a delight. The joy of brightening a child’s heart creates the magic of Christmas.

—William Carey Jones

THE EARTH has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young.

—PHILLIPS BROOKS

THE TWO most joyous times of the year are Christmas morning and the end of school.

—ALICE COOPER

THE SHARPEST memory of our old-fashioned Christmas Eve is my mother's hand making sure I was settled in bed.

—PAUL ENGLE

THE SMELLS of Christmas are the smells of childhood.

—RICHARD PAUL EVANS

I'M THE only one who still believes in Santa Claus!

—EDITH PIAF

I'VE ALWAYS loved Christmas and that's not really gone away from me from being a child to now. It's always a magical time and I'm unashamed in my love for Christmas.

—MARTIN FREEMAN

AT CHRISTMAS

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season's here;
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime.

—EDGAR A. GUEST

LET THE children have their night of fun and laughter; let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures.

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

THERE IS something about Christmas that requires a rug rat.

Little kids make Christmas fun. I wonder if could rent one for the holidays. When I was tiny we would by a real tree and stay up late drinking hot chocolate and finding just the right place for the special decorations. It seems like my parents gave up the magic when I figured out the Santa lie. Maybe I shouldn't have told them I knew where the presents really came from. It broke their hearts.

—Laurie Halse Anderson

One strain could call up the quivering expectancy of Christmas Eve, childhood, joy and sadness, the lonely wonder of a star.

—Maud Hart Lovelace

Were I a philosopher, I should write a philosophy of toys, showing that nothing else in life need to be taken seriously, and that Christmas Day in the company of children is one of the few occasions on which men become entirely alive.

—Robert Lynd

Christmas is for children. But it is for grownups, too. Even if it is a headache, a chore, and nightmare, it is a period of necessary defrosting of chill and hide bound hearts.

—Lenora Mattingly Weber

No matter how many Christmas presents you give your child, there's always that terrible moment when he's opened the very last one. That's when he expects you to say,

‘Oh yes, I almost forgot,’ and take him out and show him the pony.

—Mignon McLaughlin

Christmas is sights, especially the sights of Christmas reflected in the eyes of a child.

—William Saroyan

Like snowflakes, my Christmas memories gather and dance—each beautiful, unique and too soon gone.

—Deborah Whipp

I love the excitement, the childlike spirit of innocence and just about everything that goes along with Christmas.

—Hillary Scott

A word to the wise to all the children of the twentieth century, whether their concern be pediatrics or geriatrics, whether they crawl on hands and knees and wear diapers or walk with a cane and comb their beards. There’s a wondrous magic to Christmas, and there’s a special power reserved for little people. In short, there’s nothing mightier than the meek, and a merry Christmas to each and all.

—Rod Serling

Every Christmas now for years, I have found myself wondering about the point of the celebration. As the holiday has become more ecumenical and secular, it has lost much of the magic that I remember so fondly from childhood.

—Whitley Strieber

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

—Larry Wilde

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!

—Charles Dickens

Childhood conditions us to relax and expand at Christmas, to forget petty worries and irritations and think in terms of universal peace. And so Christmas is the nearest to mystical experience that most human beings ever

approach, with its memories of Dickens and Irving's Bracebridge Hall.

—Colin Wilson

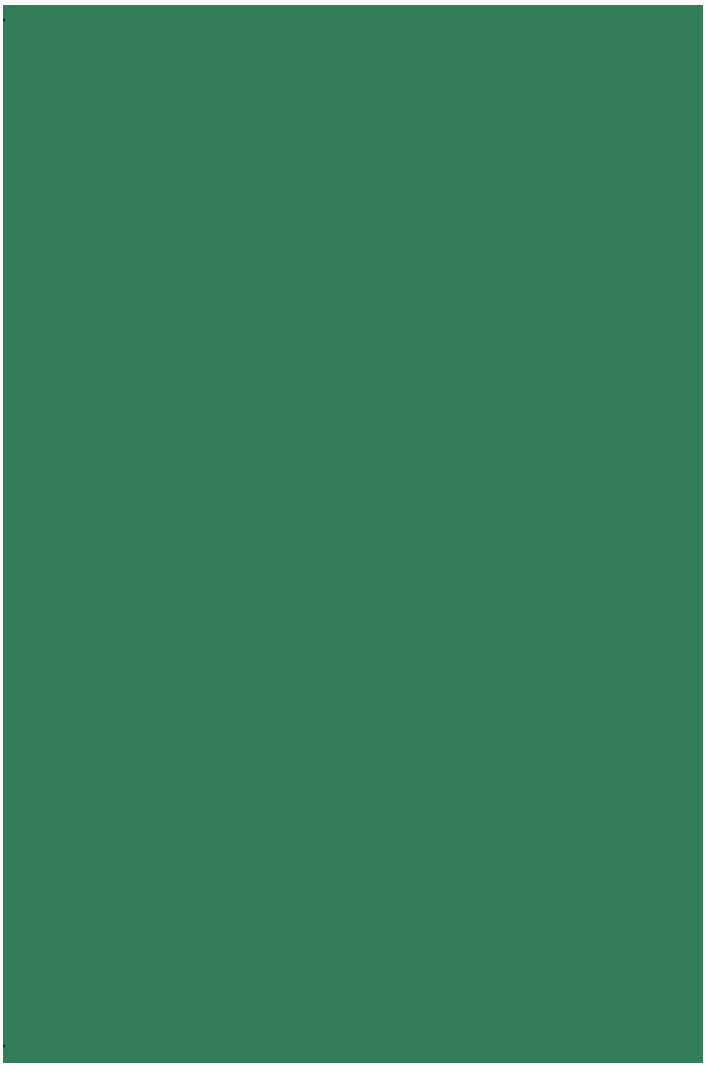
There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child. Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness, and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.

—Erma Bombeck

For children, Christmas is anticipation. For adults, Christmas is memory.

—Eric Sevareid

Whatever else be lost among the years,

Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing: Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears, Let us hold close one day, remembering Its poignant meaning for the hearts of men. Let us get back our childlike faith again.

—Grace Noll Crowell